

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

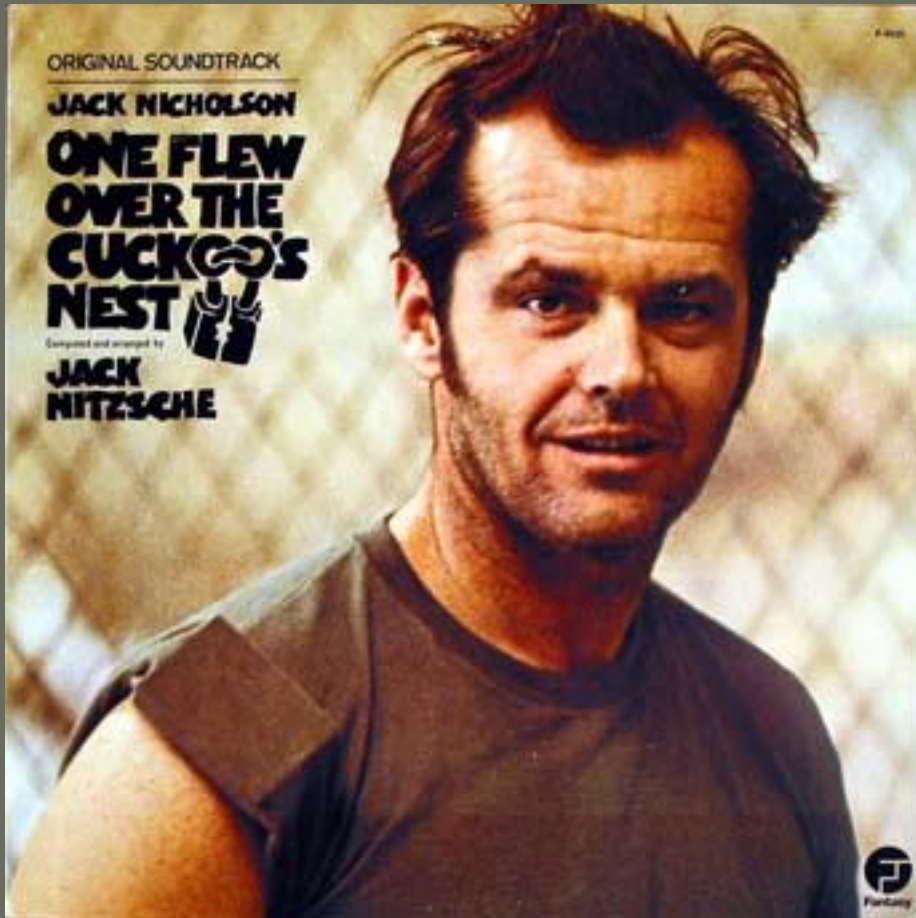
A presentation

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CUCKOO'S NEST



LIGHTING
AND
COLOUR

Lighting and Colour become
significant when there are
links or contrasts in
particular scenes

Scenes to compare

- Compare the start and end
- Compare the hospital with the fishing trip
- Compare the start & end of the fishing trip
- Compare Billy's death with Mac's



Start

- Dawn 'natural' light – Establishing shot at start matches final shot at end.
 - A silhouette of mountains and open spaces. Dark, soft colours and lighting, shadows = unknown but not bad/foreboding.



End

Dusk 'natural' blue light –similar to
establishing shot at start

A silhouette of mountains and
open spaces. Dark, soft blue
colours and lighting, shadows =
unknown but not bad/foreboding.

Should be considered as working
with the music.

(Indian flute and drum at start
compared with very rousing
orchestral music giving way to
Indian flute and drum at end)

Compare the lighting and colour in
the hospital with the fishing trip



































Hospital

- Institutionalised, fluorescent lighting – generally harsh and white/off white = controlled and artificial. Note the warning red light above the door Nurse R enters
- White uniforms = conformity, sterility.
- Nighttimes inside. Shadows of people strapped to bed, wire over windows – side light = cold shadowy faces

Fishing trip

(Bus and boat trip)

- Bright sunshine, blue sky, lots of colours
 - Everything stands out, natural light full key lighting
 - Coloured clothing, orange life-jackets
- = freedom, real world, uncontrolled, chaotic, unpredictable random environment.

Compare the end of the fishing trip
with the start





End of fishing trip

- Grey sky
 - Shadows
 - Colours now muted shades of grey
 - Stormy looking
- = returning to controlled environment –
metaphoric storm brewing

Compare the death of
Billy with the death of Mac





Billy's death

- Stark, institutional, harsh light on Billy, red blood, nurses white uniform reinforces the horrible event and the coldness of the nurses behaviour and response to his death – heightens audience response to his death and to her appalling causing of it – her motives and methods hit us.



Mac's death

- Mac's death on the other hand, while still quite violent in nature, does not seem like this to us. The soft shadows and nighttime lighting reinforce the idea of the 'spirit world' as Chief Brombden suffocates Mac in order to free his spirit from his lobotomised state and 'take' him with him to Canada

